Regulatory Agency for Bio-Pharamaceutical Products

800. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Association of Bio-technology Led Enterprises has requested Government to create a single Regulatory Agency for bio-pharamaceutical products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Association of Bio-technology Led Enterprises (ABLE) has requested the Government to create a single-point regulatory model for Recombinant-DNA pharmaceuticals to streamline the approval procedure, define the scope and purview of each regulatory authority and time frames for the regulatory bodies to give responses etc.

(c) The issue raised by the ABLE is under examination by a specially constituted Task Force.

Setting up of Bio-tech Parks

801. SHRI MAM. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Group set up by Government on Bio-tech Parks/ . Bio-tech Incubators/Pilot-level facilities has given its go ahead for four bio-tech parks projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, location-wise;

(c) the names of the States whose proposals are still pending with Government;

(d) the reasons therefor;

(e) the names of States whose proposals have been rejected/returned;

(f) the reasons therefor; and

(g) the total fund likely to be required for each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The expert group has given its recommendations to support four bio-tech parks on technical grounds. The details of the four projects recommended by the Expert Group are: establishing bio-tech incubation centre and common instrumentation facilities by Karnataka at Bangalore; setting up of bio-processing and scale up facility, micro-propogation facility, plant extraction facility, analytical laboratory facility and utility support and design engineering and project supervision by Kerala at Kochi; creating common extraction facility for medicinal and aromatic plants and agro/food testing and certification facility by Punjab at Chandigarh and setting up of tissue culture hardening facilities, cultivation of temperate aromatic plants using bio-technological interventions, pilot cultivation of selected high value medicinal plants and post-harvest management and technology aided food processing by Himachal Pradesh at Solan.

(c) and (d) No proposal is pending with the Central Government.

(e) and (f) Proposals received from the States like Tamil Nadu and Haryana were not recommended by the Expert Group for want of focused objectives and linkages with academic institutions and industries of the region.

(g) The level of funding for these proposals would be based upon the approval of Planning Commission and availability of funds.

Testing of Chemical Weapons

802. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, is in a position to develop soon the facilities to test chemical weapons in India in its laboratories; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and present status of creation of these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. IICT, Hyderabad is not creating any facilities to test chemical weapons in India. However,